Department of State

36 Action

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SS Info

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

419, NOVEMBER 28, 5 PM NO:

NIACT

EYES ONLY AND STRICTLY PERSONAL FOR SECRETARY DULLES FROM SENATOR BOURKE HICKENLOOPER.

I ARRIVED IN BERLIN YESTERDAY MORNING, HAVE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE STUDIED PRESS REPORTS. AND FIND THAT YOUR STATEMENTS OF NOVEMBER 26 AS INTERPRETED HERE HAVE CAUSED ALARY AND CONSTERNATION IN SO FAR AS "AGENCY" REFERENCE IS CONCLRNED.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN A SCONSTRUED SINCE I KNOW YOUR STADING FEELINGS WITH RESPECT TO MAINTENANCE OF A FIRM POSITION IN BERLIN.

MY OBSERVATIONS HERE CONVINCE ME THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE "AGENT PRINCIPLE" INVOLVING SLIGHTEST INTERPPETED ADMISSION OF ANY DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF SO_CALLED GDR STATUS CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED ON ANY GROUNDS, LEGAL OR OTHERWISE, AND WOULD HAVE A CATASTROPHIC EFFECT ON OUR POSITION AND ON OUR PRESTIGE HERE AND ALL OF GERMANY, IN FACT IT ALREADY HAS.

AM FURTHER CONVINCED THAT WE MUST MAINTAIN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE POSITION IN BERLIN AND TAKE NO STEP WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A RLIREAT FROM OUR RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THIS CITY OR REDUCE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF USSR.

WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK TOMORROW (SATURDAY) NIGHT.

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